



FIELD CROPS



POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

May 17, 2005

UNITED STATES

SPRING: Spring production in 2005 is forecast at 18.1 million cwt, up 1 percent from the April forecast but 20 percent below last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 64,400 acres, up 2 percent from the April estimate but 11 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 281 cwt per acre, down 3 cwt from last month and 33 cwt below a year ago. North Carolina’s potato crop, forecasted at 2.66 million cwt, is up 8 percent from the April 1 forecast but 1 percent below last year. Planting was completed behind the 5-year average but the crop is in good condition. California spring production is forecast at 5.66 million cwt, 5 percent above last month’s forecast but down 32 percent from a year ago. Market pressure prompted significant cutbacks in this year’s planted acreage. Spring potato harvest is underway with the crop in good condition. Production in Texas is forecast at 2.05 million cwt, up 7 percent from the April forecast but 7 percent below 2004. Producers in Texas have had good growing conditions with near perfect weather. Arizona growers expect production to be 1.18 million cwt, up 6 percent from the April forecast but down 33 percent from 2004.

FLORIDA

SPRING: Potato production to be harvested during the spring is forecast at 6,550,000 hundredweight, down 15 percent from a year ago. Hastings producers hope to dig 17,000 acres this spring, down 1,000 acres from last year. The spring crop yield for Hastings is expected to average 285 hundredweight per acre, down 35 hundredweight from the 320 hundredweight per acre averaged last year. Producers in other areas expect to dig 1,705,000 hundredweight from 6,200 acres compared with 1,918,000 hundredweight from 6,500 acres in 2004. Digging of chippers in the Hastings area and other central Peninsula localities got underway during early April with some activity curtailed by heavy rains early in the month. Mostly dry conditions over the central and southern Peninsula kept the digging of table types on schedule during April.

POTATOES

Seasonal group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested						
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
SPRING									
Arizona	6.2	4.3	6.2	4.3	285	275	2,090	1,767	1,183
California	17.5	13.8	17.5	13.8	475	410	8,360	8,313	5,658
Florida	24.8	23.6	24.5	23.2	313	282	8,008	7,678	6,550
Hastings	18.2	17.3	18.0	17.0	320	285	5,684	5,760	4,845
Other	6.6	6.3	6.5	6.2	295	275	2,324	1,918	1,705
North Carolina	17.0	14.5	13.5	14.0	200	190	2,975	2,700	2,660
Texas	11.0	9.5	10.5	9.1	210	225	3,000	2,205	2,048
Total	76.5	65.7	72.2	64.4	314	281	24,433	22,663	18,099

MAY POTATO STOCKS UP 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

The 15 major potato States held 87.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2005, up 2 percent from last year and 5 percent above May 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 22 percent of the 2004 fall storage States’ production, 1 percentage point above last year.

Disappearance of 316 million cwt from the start of harvest to May 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 29.0 million cwt, is up 5 percent from last year and 12 percent above the same date in 2003.

Processors have used 154 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below two years ago. April usage, at 17.8 million cwt, is 7 percent above last year and up 8 percent from two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing increased 3 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing decreased less than 1 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 31.4 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 62.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, up 6 percent from last year but less than 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho’s potato stocks are up 17 percent from last year, Colorado’s potato sheds stored 7 percent more, and Washington’s stocks increased 3 percent from last year. Montana’s potato stocks are down 60 percent, Oregon’s sheds hold 38 percent less than last year, and California’s stocks decreased 29 percent from a year ago.

Central States accounted for 18.6 million cwt of potato stocks on May 1, down 12 percent from last year but 19 percent above two years ago. Michigan’s potato stocks are down 27 percent, North Dakota’s potato sheds stored 13 percent less than last year, and Minnesota’s and Wisconsin’s stocks both decreased 7 percent. Nebraska and Ohio’s potato stocks combined decreased 24 percent from last year.

Easter States stored 5.49 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, up 28 percent from last year and 29 percent above two years ago. Maine’s potato sheds hold 24 percent more than last year. Pennsylvania and New York’s stocks combined increased 95 percent from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2002-2004 ^{1/}

State	Crop year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Entire season
1,000 cwt									
Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon	2002	28,380	34,860	41,200	48,600	56,240	63,840	71,280	85,390
	2003	24,310	30,730	36,260	43,640	49,570	56,380	63,770	77,530
	2004	24,360	30,840	36,820	44,610	51,000	58,090		
Maine ^{2/}	2002	2,230	2,715	3,345	3,905	4,505	5,225	5,905	7,835
	2003	1,590	2,085	2,720	3,420	4,095	4,740	5,400	7,270
	2004	1,555	1,985	2,615	3,155	3,720	4,360		
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	2002	33,680	39,490	44,190	51,920	58,710	64,300	71,480	79,110
	2003	32,670	38,520	43,610	51,210	58,500	64,160	72,350	79,800
	2004	32,305	38,130	43,570	50,730	57,140	63,855		
Other States ^{3/}	2002	12,675	15,530	18,735	21,780	24,810	27,405	30,655	38,700
	2003	13,835	16,505	19,590	22,685	25,920	29,480	32,845	42,160
	2004	12,525	15,035	18,005	20,945	24,185	27,545		
Total	2002	76,965	92,595	107,470	126,205	144,265	160,770	179,320	211,035
	2003	72,405	87,840	102,180	120,955	138,085	154,760	174,365	206,760
	2004	70,745	85,990	101,010	119,440	136,045	153,850		
Dehydrated ^{4/}	2002	15,675	19,660	23,710	27,950	31,915	36,105	40,455	48,940
	2003	14,250	18,440	22,050	26,090	30,290	34,630	39,070	47,750
	2004	13,365	17,015	19,995	23,735	27,750	31,410		

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, and WI.

^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

^{3/} CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

^{4/} Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1995 through 2004

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1
1,000 Cwt								
1995	394,785	256,710	223,550	189,360	156,020	115,855	75,870	
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,635	103,210	
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003	403,181	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004	403,327	271,800	238,220	204,190	168,420	129,620	86,990	

^{1/} Data not available prior to 1998.